

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 EB-07 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02

CIEP-02 LAB-03 SIL-01 OMB-01 /051 W

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R 271859Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7748

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

UNCLAS MONTEVIDEO 3473

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, UY, AR

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECTS EARLY WARNING: \$300 MILLION POWER GRID

REF: MVD A-157 OF OCT 10 1974

1. EMBOFFS VISITED UTE (STATE ELECTRICITY CO.) TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR THIS PROJECT WHICH WILL COMPLEMENT SALTO GRANDE DAM NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND PROVIDE FOR TRANSMISSION LINES TO CARRY ELECTRICITY TO MONTEVIDEO AND ARGENTINA AND PROVIDE INTER-CONNECTION. ACCORDING PRESS, AS REPORTED REPAIR, IDB IS FINANCING \$95 MILLION OR 31.9 PERCENT OF TOTAL COST OF PROJECT WHICH ESTIMATED AT APPROXIMATELY \$300 MILLION. ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY WILL PROVIDE FINANCING OF APPROXIMATELY 55.7 PERCENT AND IT IS HOPED THAT REMAINDER OF ABOUT 12.4 PERCENT WILL BE FINANCED BY SUPPLIER CREDITS.

2. SALTO GRANDE DESIGN CALLS FOR TRANSMISSION LINES TO RUN FROM SALTO GRANDE SOUTH ON BOTH SIDES OF URUGUAY RIVER APPROXIMATELY 150 KILOMETERS TO SAN JAVIER IN URUGUAY AND COLONIA ELIA IN ARGENTINA. SAN JAVIER AND COLONIA ELIA WILL ALSO BE CONNECTED.

3. COMPLEMENTARY PROJECT INVOLVES FOLLOWING PROPOSED
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TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTES.

A) FROM SALTO GRANDE ONE ROUTE OF 280 KILOMETERS
CARRYING 500 KILOVOLT LINES TO SANTA FE, ARGENTINA.

B) FROM COLONIA ELIA ONE ROUTE OF 280 KILOMETERS
CARRYING 500 KILOVOLT LINES TO ROSARIO, ARGENTINA.

C) FROM SAN JAVIER ONE ROUTE ABOUT 320 KILMETERS
CARRYING 400 KILOVOLTS DIRECTLY TO MONTEVIDEO.

D) FROM SAN JAVIER ANOTHER LINE IS PLANNED TO CONNECT
WITH PROPOSED PALMAR DAM AND EXISTING HYDROELECTRIC
POWER PLANTS OF BAYGORRIA AND TERRA, ALL ON RIO
NEGRO, AND THEN FEED INTO MONTEVIDEO SYSTEM.

ALSO INCLUDED IN PROJECT ARE TRANSFORMERS, SUBSTATIONS AND
OTHER NECESSARY EQUIPMENT.

4. PROJECT WILL BE UNDER MANAGEMENT OF MIXED TECHNICAL
COMMISSION (CTM) WHICH CREATED BY URUGUAY AND ARGENTINA
TO CONSTRUCT SALTO GRANDE DAM AND BASIC TRANSMISSION
LINE CIRCUIT (PARA 2). EMBASSY INFORMED THAT ORIGINALLY
EACH COUNTRY WAS GOING TO BUILD ADDITIONAL CONNECTING
GRID UNDER ITS OWN AUTHORITY BUT THAT IT WAS DECIDED
TO INCLUDE GRID WITHIN MANDATE OF CTM TO PROVIDE
FOR COORDINATION AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDIZATION.

5. UTE OFFICIAL UNABLE TO STATE WHEN BIDS WOULD BE
CALLED FOR BUT EXPRESSED HOPE IT WOULD BE IN LATE
1975 AS IT IS PLANNED TO BEGIN USING SALTO GRANDE
ELECTRICITY IN 1979 OR 1980.
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